

REMARKS

35 USC §§102 AND 103(A)

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Langdon et al. (US 4977482). Claims 1, 7, 11-12, 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Langdon et al. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 recites: "A power assembly system, comprising: a collar unit; and an internal power unit located entirely within the collar unit, wherein the internal power unit comprises an AC to DC power converter and is coupled to the collar unit; wherein the power assembly system is mountable between a meter base and a meter."

The original specification defines an internal power unit as "Internal power units are typically used to power other components, and include batteries, electronic circuits, capacitors, coils, and fuel cells." The original specification also shows in the Examples that the internal power units and the power assembly systems comprise AC/DC converters that are primarily internal to the collar unit. Claim 11 recites the same internal power unit that is located within the collar unit. The Background Section of the original specification mentions that one of the disadvantages to prior art power assemblies is that they are "strictly AC powered systems", which implies that any DC conversion would take place external to the prior art power assemblies.

Langdon teaches a watthour meter socket adapter that includes a housing of electrical contacts which receive the terminals of a watthour meter and terminals which are insertable into the contacts of a watthour meter socket. In Figure 9 and the related description in Langdon, it is clear that in order to convert AC power to DC power, an externally connected "voltage converting means 114" must be provided. In Langdon, there are no "means" for converting AC to DC power internally in the watthour meter socket adapter. AC power is merely rerouted from the original connection and directed to the outside of the socket adapter.

The Langdon adapter does not include an internal power unit located/self-contained within the collar unit and Langdon does not disclose that the entire power assembly is mountable between

the meter base and the meter. The voltage converter means in Langdon is insertable into the sleeve, which can lead to the problems disclosed in the background of the present application – including not being designed to operate in relatively extreme conditions. Therefore, Langdon cannot anticipate claims 1 and 11 of the present application, because Langdon does not include all of the elements of claims 1 and 11.

Based on the above arguments, claims 1 and 11 are patentable as not being anticipated by or unpatentable in view of Langdon. In addition, claims 2-10 and 12-22 are patentable as not being anticipated by or unpatentable in view of Langdon by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1 and 11.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all of the claims in light of the arguments presented and allow all current and pending claims.

Respectfully Submitted;

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Dated: October 8, 2008

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